

No one can predict what will happen in medicine over the next 50 years. Over the last 50 years, there have been tremendous changes. The technological advances are simply mind-boggling. The challenge for us in health care is to maintain the highest quality of health care in the world and at the same time to continue to make it available to all Americans, but this can be done only if we change that basic framework through which medical services are consumed.

A medical savings account, again, is not the answer to these problems. But it is an alternative. It is an option which will go a long way to empower individual consumers.

HONORING HARRY KIZIRIAN

Mr. PELL. Mr. President, today the Senate will act on H.R. 1606, legislation to designate the U.S. Post Office Building located at 24 Corliss Street, Providence, RI, as "The Harry Kizirian Post Office Building." I was pleased to join my colleague, Senator JOHN CHAFEE, in cosponsoring the Senate version of the bill, S. 786.

It is a fitting tribute for Congress to name this particular structure after Harry Kizirian because it was the first post office in the United States to use a fully automated sorting system, under Harry's supervision. Harry Kizirian himself is a Rhode Island landmark because of his extraordinary contributions to the United States, to Rhode Island, and to Providence.

When Harry was just 15 years old, his father died, and he went to work part-time as a postal clerk to help support his widowed mother. He then worked his way up through the leadership positions in the Postal Service. After being nominated by former Senator John O. Pastore, Harry was confirmed by the Senate in 1961 as postmaster of Providence, RI, a post he held for more than 25 years.

World War II interrupted Harry's career for a short time. He enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps after he graduated from Mount Pleasant High School and subsequently became Rhode Island's most decorated marine.

He fought in Okinawa and was shot in battle. He earned the Navy Cross, the Bronze Star with a "V", the Purple Heart with a gold star and, finally, the Rhode Island Cross.

After the war, Harry returned to Rhode Island and to his job at the Post Office. In addition to his military service and his work in the Postal Service, he had served on numerous committees and boards in Rhode Island.

Harry served on the board of directors of Butler Hospital, Big Brothers of Rhode Island, the Providence Human Relations Commission, Rhode Island Blue Cross, and Rhode Island Heart and Lung Associations.

He was also a member of the Community Advisory Board of Rhode Island College, the Providence Heritage Commission, the Commission on Rhode Is-

land Medal Honor Recipients, DAV, and the Marine Corps League.

Harry Kizirian's name has become synonymous with the qualities he exemplifies—dedication, loyalty, leadership, and hard work. I am delighted to honor him, not only for his lifetime of service to the Postal Service, but also for his involvement with and commitment to his community. Congratulations, Harry.

U.S. WORKERS NEED MORE PROTECTION UNDER OUR IMMIGRATION LAWS

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, legal immigration within the limits and rules of our immigration laws has served America well throughout our history, and is one of the most important elements of our national strength and character.

Clearly, Congress and the American people today are rightly concerned about illegal immigration. There is broad bipartisan support for effective measures to crack down on this festering problem. But we must be careful to ensure that attitudes toward illegal immigrants do not create a backlash against legal immigrants.

In general, the current laws and policies on legal immigration work well, and we must be hesitant to change them, especially those that give high priority to encouraging family reunification and enabling U.S. citizens to bring their spouses, children, parents and siblings to this country.

But one area of legal immigration that needs reform is in the rules protecting American workers. It has become clear that protections for U.S. workers under current law have not kept pace with changes in the American labor market and the world labor market.

This problem is particularly serious in our laws permitting the entry of temporary foreign workers—the so-called nonimmigrants. Hearings conducted earlier this month by the Senate Subcommittee on Immigration, under the able chairmanship of Senator SIMPSON, have revealed the depth of this problem.

U.S. companies are increasingly outsourcing activities previously performed by permanent employees. More firms are resorting more often to the use of temporary workers or independent contractors as a way of increasing profits and reducing wages and benefits, even though the result is less in-house expertise for the firms.

Often, the workers brought in from outside are U.S. citizens. But increasingly, U.S. firms are also turning to temporary foreign workers. Yet, this little known aspect of our immigration laws includes few protections for U.S. workers.

Current laws governing permanent immigrant workers require employers to try to recruit U.S. workers first. The Department of Labor must certify that efforts for such recruitment have been

carried out before an employer can sponsor an immigrant worker. This process has some shortcomings, but it is intended to guarantee that immigrant workers do not displace American workers.

A serious problem is that our laws governing temporary foreign workers contain no such requirement. They are based on the outdated view that because they enter only temporarily, few protections for U.S. workers are required. Current law does not require employers to try to recruit U.S. workers first, and the Department of Labor has little authority to investigate and remedy abuses that arise, such as the underpayment of wages or the use of inadequate working conditions.

As a result, a U.S. firm can lay off permanent U.S. workers and fill their jobs with temporary foreign workers—either by hiring them directly or by using outside contractors.

In one case, a major U.S. computer firm laid off many of its U.S. computer programmers, then entered into a joint venture with an Indian computer firm that supplied replacement programmers—most of whom were temporary workers from India.

While reforms are needed in this area, we must be careful not to throw the baby out with the bath water. Many temporary workers who come here provide unique skills that help the United States to stay competitive in the global marketplace. For example, such workers can bring unique knowledge and expertise to university research programs developing new medical advances and new technologies.

As Congress takes up far-reaching reforms in legal immigration, it is vitally important that we recognize these basic distinctions. Stronger protections for American workers are needed. But they are not inconsistent with preserving an appropriate role for foreign workers with unique skills.

In our subcommittee hearings earlier this month, Secretary of Labor Robert Reich proposed three important changes to our immigration laws on temporary foreign workers. I believe these should receive serious consideration by Congress.

Secretary Reich proposed, first, that these employers should be required to make good faith efforts to recruit U.S. workers first—before seeking the entry of a foreign worker. Second, he proposed that employers who lay off U.S. workers should be precluded from seeking foreign workers in that field for at least 6 months. Third, he proposed that the length of time that temporary foreign workers may remain in the United States be reduced from 6 years under current law to no more than 3 years, in order to reduce the overall number of temporary foreign workers in the country at a given time.

In addition to these three thoughtful proposals by Secretary Reich, the bipartisan Commission on Immigration Reform, chaired by former Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, has recommended that employers who request